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The Diocese of Ogdensburg Volume 78 Number 42

# NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

MARCH 6, 2024

## HONORING SCHOOL VOLUNTEERS



Trinity Catholic School in Massena recently honored school volunteers Kelli Ramsey, Christine Parisian, Krista Barr, Vanessa Bishop, Trent McDonald, Joanne Kellogg, Christie and Justin Zagrobely, Aimee Poirier, Christy Laguador, Adrian Taraska, Paul Hagggett and Coda, Butch Revai, Kate Sheldon, Mary Brencher, Monica Boyea, Shirley Chartrand, Jen Stokes, Jessica Saxby, Greg and Amy LaPointe, Terri O'Keefe, Tom and Debbie Cooke, Ann Karlberg, Erin Reardon, Amanda Mittiga and Ashley Cumming. Pictured (LEFT) are decorations made by the students to honor the volunteers, and (RIGHT) volunteer Kelli Ramsey holding a gift and flower from the school.

## WADHAMS AWARD



Linda Gifford received the Bishop Edgar P. Wadhams Award from Bishop Terry R. LaValley for her 35 years of "compassionate care as a nursing assistant" in the Sisters of St. Joseph Motherhouse Infirmary. The award was presented at the conclusion of a Mass celebrated by Bishop LaValley in the Motherhouse Chapel on Feb. 24.

FULL STORY, PAGE 3

## Pope: 'Ugliest danger is gender ideology'

By Matthew Santucci  
Catholic News Agency

Pope Francis on Friday morning gave an address on the importance of building a culture that protects human and Christians vocations, things he suggested were at risk due to contemporary cultural challenges including gender ideology.

"It is very important that there is this meeting, this meeting between men and women, because today the ugliest danger is gender ideology, which cancels out differences," the pope said during an audience with members of the French-

based academic organization Research and Anthropology of Vocations Institute (CRAV).

Gender ideology, which seeks to blur differences between men and women, "makes everything the same," Francis said.

"Erasing differences is erasing humanity. Man and woman, however, are in a fruitful 'tension,'" Francis told the assembly, which is gathered in Rome for a two-day international conference titled "Man, Woman, Image of God: For an Anthropology of Vocations."

The pope did not read the full address, instead delegating the task to Monsignor Filippo Cia-

mpanelli. "I still have a cold and it's tiring to read for a while," the pope said.

Focusing the Friday morning address on the "anthropological crisis and the necessary promotion of human and Christian vocations," Pope Francis said this task is challenged by myriad social challenges arising from the cultural zeitgeist, including gender ideology.

Highlighting the anthropological angle of the conference, the pope pointed to "an elementary and fundamental truth, which today we need to rediscover in all its beauty: The life of the human being is a vocation."

The pope emphasized that this is a foundational element "which underlies every call within the community" and "has to do with an essential characteristic of the human being as such."

"This discovery," the pope added, "brings us out of the isolation of a self-referential ego and makes us look at ourselves as an identity in relation."

The Holy Father emphasized that it is imperative to understand this "anthropological truth," as it "fully responds to the desire for human fulfillment and happiness that lives in our hearts."

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# I've heard it all before

"Thanks. It has pockets."

An informal poll of a few female friends and colleagues showed it isn't unique to me. We've all received this answer enough times that we expect it. I received it on one of those unseasonably warm days last week.

I was waiting in line to pay for gas and snacks at a convenience store, and there was a woman standing immediately to my left waiting for a milkshake.

"That's a really cute dress," I said to the woman.

That's when she echoed that common refrain: "Thanks. It has pockets."

I've never searched for research explaining why so many women reply with that line when they receive a compliment about a qualifying dress or skirt, but I was thinking about it more after that recent interaction, and I have a couple theories.



**Darcy L.  
Fargo**

One theory: A lot of people struggle to accept compliments and feel awkward responding. "Thanks. It has pockets" is good as my left would call a "canned response," a response you don't have to think about.

My other theory: We're excited, and we want to share our excitement. A lot of women's pants, especially jeans and dress

pants, have what I call "girl pockets," pockets that are only an inch or two deep, pockets that are more for decoration than function. So, having a real, functional pocket can be novel. Second, it's exciting to have something that's both beautiful and functional.

Beautiful and functional. I got thinking about things I find both beautiful and functional - my favorite serving platter (a gift from my grandmother), the mission style desk at which I write so many words - and it struck me: Our faith is beautiful, but how is it functional in my life?

My love of God and desire to do His will guides my overall moral compass and some larger aspects of my life, things like going

to Mass, almsgiving/charity, my employment, but I sat and contemplated how "beautiful and functional" works in the seemingly insignificant moments of the day - when I'm folding laundry, running errands or chatting with my son.

While I occasionally experience the Holy Spirit in everyday life, I don't intentionally make everyday life open to the Holy Spirit all that well. I'm trying to do that a bit more.

I may not see folding my laundry as meaningful in any way, but I've been trying to remind myself that it's what I need to be doing in that moment, and that makes it part of God's plan. I don't have to enjoy it. I don't have to love it.

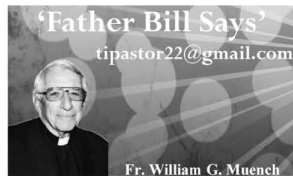
I just have to accept it, pockets and all.

## Experience the immensity of God's love

So, how is your Lenten program going? Here we are at the middle of Lent. This is a good time for a rededication, maybe even a new program for the last few weeks. Soon, it will be Holy Week. This is a good time for some special prayers as preparation for the holiest week of the year.

The middle of Lent is a perfect time to celebrate the sacrament of reconciliation, our Lenten confession. By this time of Lent, each one of us should be aware of the changes we need to make in our lives. Lent should make us aware of what would profoundly improve our journey on the road to becoming a saint.

So, today, let's talk about confession. As I have mentioned to you before, I again encourage you to take some time to properly prepare for this sacrament. Penance is a sacrament of the Catholic Church. All of our sacraments present us with a unique opportuni-



ty to become closer to the Lord Jesus. This is a time of grace, a time to make our Christian life better. To prepare, good questions for us to consider are, "am I a good person?", "Does my life make a difference in this world?", "Should I change?", "How can I transform my life to live as Jesus asks?" and "Do I have a plan for my future with the help of my Savior?"

This time of preparation must include a time of quiet, a time of silence. I must allow Jesus to be with me, to guide me. I must remove the noise that keeps Jesus from reaching me. I must listen to constantly hear the Lord's words for me. Then, I must have a plan.

Now, I am prepared to celebrate sacramental confession with the priest. I

am ready to come forward before God and the confessor priest to humbly declare that I am a sinner. I urge you to make this formal ritual personal and honest. We come to this sacrament for forgiveness, anxious to realize God continues to love us and that God has not given up on us. We come to seek the support of our God, and we come to dedicate ourselves to change what must be changed in our lives. We are here to develop a plan. We want Jesus to walk with us.

The confessor priest brings to us the power of God's love. We are challenged to make a change by realizing our failures and sins, whether great or small. The power of this sacrament calls us to turn to God in humility to seek forgiveness and loving support. The sacrament reminds us that this is the time for us to move ahead, now forgiven and ready to dedicate ourselves to live well in the grace of our

God. Something powerful happens each time we experience this sacrament of penance: we experience God's forgiveness.

After confession, what we call a penance - a time to remain with the Lord, a time for a powerful transformation, a time to realize just what has happened through the Lord's forgiveness. This is a time for silence in the presence of Jesus so that we may discover the Lord's forgiveness as Jesus leads us to a new life, a life of love and peace, a readiness to change.

The sacrament of penance is a powerful experience for every Catholic. We must all realize how profoundly great this sacrament is for us, for it is in this sacrament that we experience the immensity of God's love. The Lord's forgiveness will produce a transformation in all that we do and are, and we will know how to live in the love and peace of Our Savior.



# Gifford honored for service at SSJ Infirmary

By Deacon Kevin Mastellon  
Contributing Writer

Linda Gifford was volunteering at Mercy Hospital's Madonna Nursing Home when a friend told her of a need for someone with her gifts of dedication and compassion at the Sisters of St. Joseph's Motherhouse Infirmary in Watertown.

Linda applied. Sister Mary Ellen Brett, the major superior at the time, interviewed Linda and eventually hired her.

Thirty-five years later, Linda Gifford received the Bishop Edgar P. Wadhams Award from Bishop Terry R. LaValley for her "compassionate care as a Nursing Assistant" in the Infirmary.

The award was presented to Linda at the conclusion of a Mass celebrated by Bishop LaValley in the Sisters of St. Joseph Motherhouse Chapel on Feb. 24.

"Her dedication and good judgement brought comfort to the Sisters as she went above and beyond the call of duty, ensuring they were as comfortable as possible," the award states. "Extremely dependable, Linda often arrived early in the morning to prepare everything for the Sisters' personal care. She was efficient and cooperated well with everyone working in the infirmary. A faith-filled woman, Linda treasured the opportunity to take the Sisters to Mass."

The Chapel was filled with sisters and Linda's other co-workers,



Photo by Deacon Kevin Mastellon

(LEFT) Bishop Edgar P. Wadhams Award winner Linda Gifford served with six community superiors. Pictured are (front row from left), Sister Mary Ellen Brett, Sister Bernadette Marie Collins, Current Major Superior Sister Shirley Anne Brown, Linda Gifford (recipient), Sister Jennifer Votraw, (back row, from left) Sister Mary Eamon Lyng and Sister M. Annunciata Collins. (RIGHT) Bishop Terry R. LaValley reads from the Bishop Wadhams Award citation at the end of Mass at the Sisters of St. Joseph Motherhouse Chapel on February 24.



friends, and relatives, but the Black River resident was unaware of the award until Bishop LaValley called her forward and read from the citation.

"We would be hard pressed to find anyone with a greater sense of dedication," Bishop read. "We thank God that Linda has enriched our lives."

The infirmary closed at the end of 2023. The current superior of the Sisters of St. Joseph, Sister Shirley Anne Brown, said of the Mass and ceremony, "It was a wonderful opportunity to highlight all our caregivers. Bishop LaValley was most gra-

cious to be here with us."

Linda Gifford looked back on her 35 years fondly. "There is not one moment or event that I would trade for any other. Everyone was wonderful. I love them all."

The Bishop Edgar P. Wadhams Award was instituted by Bishop Paul S. Loverde, the eleventh Bishop of Ogdensburg, in 1996 to recognize exceptional service to the Diocese of Ogdensburg by an individual.

Past recipients of the Award include Father Richard Siepka, Monsignor Lawrence M. Deno, Mary Lou Kilian,

Monsignor Robert Giroux, Dr. Gerald Irwin, Sister Kathryn Healy, Dr. A. B. DeGrandpre, Clyde A. Lewis, Sr., Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Sanders, Sister Donna Franklin, D.C., Mr. & Mrs. Henry Doningos, Sally Rusaw, Elaine Cook, Irving Pappineau, Noreen Barcomb, Glenn Burdo, Starr Burke, Mr. & Mrs. David Cline, Ruth Demarse, Joseph Denoncourt, Patricia Fassett, Pat Fontana, Sr., Deacon and Mrs. Gary Frank, Con-

nie Hatch-Young, Mr. & Mrs. Jeremiah Hayes, Mr. & Mrs. Gerald LaValley, Dr. and Mrs. Victor Ludwig, Leslie Marvel, Mr. & Mrs. Angelo Pietropaoli, Elsie Scruggs, Mary Catherine Spillman, Donna Steenberg, Daniel Sweeney, Sister Mary Christine Taylor, SSJ, Michael Tooley, Michelle Watkins, Linda Young, Michael Bresnahan, Jr., James Brady, Jane Boyea, Bruce Bombard, Celine Paquette and Ralph Bennett.



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# 2023 Bishop's Fund Appeal reaches goal

With a grateful heart, Bishop Terry R. LaValley is pleased to announce that through generous contributions from over 6,500 households, the 2023 Bishop's Fund Appeal - We Share the Burden has reached its goal of \$1.3 million.

"I am deeply grateful to the many parishioners across the diocese who generously support the mission of the Catholic Church here in the North Country through the Bishop's Fund Appeal," Bishop LaValley said. "On behalf of the many individuals and families in the Diocese of Ogdensburg who have benefited from the generosity of our donors, thank you! The generous support of our donors brings much hope and has a significant impact on peoples' lives through the ministries and programs of this annual Appeal. I also wish to extend my appreciation to our priests and deacons whose strong leadership and personal sacrifice support this important Appeal each year. As you know, we are blessed with a wonderful Bishop's Fund team, led by our Director, Val Mathews."

As of March 1, the Bishop's Fund Appeal has collected \$1,345,736.36 in gifts received with \$69,017.26 remaining in promised pledges. The Bishop's Fund Office will continue to receive payments on the 2023 pledges until the close of the fiscal year on June 30, 2024.

The Bishop's Fund Appeal continues to provide the following programs and ministries of the Diocese of Og-

densburg: Education of Seminarians; Family Life Ministry; Natural Family Planning; Respect Life Ministry; Formation for Ministry Program; Office of the New Evangelization; Continuing Education and Formation of Priests; Priests' Graduate Studies; Vocations; Permanent Deacons; Deacon Formation; Tuition Assistance Program; Campus Ministry Program; Matching Gifts to Catholic Schools; Department of Faith Formation; Youth Ministry; Young Adult Ministry; Guggenheim Center; Department of Worship and the Bishop's Good Samaritan Fund.

Any funds received over this year's goal will provide additional emergency grants to individuals and families through the Bishop's Good Samaritan Fund. During the course of the year, many families and individuals reach out to their pastor for help with unexpected emergencies.

Pastors, on behalf of a parishioner or community member requests Bishop LaValley's assistance to help the person or family in need. We have recently experienced an increase in grant requests from the Bishop's Good Samaritan Fund for those who are in urgent need of assistance due to illness and high medical costs, heating costs, furnace repairs, home repairs and loss of homes to fire.

The Bishop's Good Samaritan Fund also provides assistance to food pantries, soup kitchens, outreach centers and snack pack programs so that they may continue

to help families in need.

If you have made a pledge to the 2023-24 Bishop's Fund Appeal, you are encouraged to mail your final pledge

payment before June 15, 2024. If you have not made a gift or wish to make an additional gift, donations can be mailed to: The Bishop's

Fund Appeal, PO Box 150, Ogdensburg, NY 13669 or made online at [www.rcdony.org/giving/donate-now-bishop-s-fund](http://www.rcdony.org/giving/donate-now-bishop-s-fund).



## Communion means:

1. an act or instance of sharing;
2. a Christian sacrament in which consecrated bread and wine are consumed... as the body and blood of Christ;
3. intimate fellowship or rapport;
4. a body of Christians having common faith and discipline.  
(according to the online Merriam-Webster Dictionary)

In the pages of our *North Country Catholic*, you'll find many "acts or instances of sharing." The newspaper shares stories of how our North Country neighbors - individuals, parishes, schools and organizations - are trying to follow the Lord's call and share His love. Reading those stories, we find similarities with our own lives. We find ideas to improve our faith and spirituality, and we find inspiration in seeing what the Lord is doing in the world around us. It helps connect us, despite how far apart we may be geographically. The newspaper helps create that "intimate fellowship or rapport" and helps us see our "common faith and discipline" in action. And, of course, we are drawn together by Holy Communion, Christ given to us, body and blood, soul and divinity.

## NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

WEEKLY NEWSPAPER FOR THE DIOCESE OF OGDENSBURG

## We are truly In Communion

- Personal stories of faith
- Parish and Diocesan News
- Scripture Reflections
- Important messages from Bishop Terry LaValley
- Catholic news from around the nation and world

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## Funeral planned for Sr. Bernadette Marie Lalonde

A Mass of Christian Burial for Sister Bernadette Marie Lalonde, GNSH (Carolyn Joan Lalonde), will be held at 10 a.m. on March 9 at Redeemer Sisters' Chapel in Huntingdon Valley, Pennsylvania. Sharing of memories will precede the funeral, starting at 9:30 a.m.

Sister Bernadette Marie died on February 26, 2024. She was 84.

Sister was born in Ogdensburg on April 22, 1939, to Theodore and Alida (Bouchard) Lalonde.

Raised in Ogdensburg, Carolyn Lalonde entered the Grey Nuns of the Sacred Heart a year after graduating St. Mary's Academy. She received a bachelor's degree in Elementary Education from D'Youville College in Buffalo, New York.

In her days as teacher, Sister "Bernie" taught first and second grades or grades or served as a teacher/library/cafeteria aide. Sister taught in Jackson Heights, Corona and Eden, New York, and at Bishop Conroy in Ogdensburg. Her years of ministry in Ogdensburg included eight-years as a File Clerk at AB Hepburn Hospital in the 1970s. The remainder of her years of service was in Philadelphia and Yardley, Pennsylvania, where she generously assisted her Sisters at the Motherhouse in various capacities, including sacristan, receptionist and other forms of intracommunity service.



Sister Bernadette Marie Lalonde, GNSH

In addition to other responsibilities while living at the Motherhouse, she spent six years as a library/cafeteria aide and volunteer at Grey Nun Academy. Sister moved to Holy Redeemer Lafayette in 2015 when the Motherhouse closed.

In addition to her religious congregation, Sister Bernadette Marie is survived by nieces Linda Militi, Mary Jane McCaffrey and Debbie McCaffrey; and nephew Stephen McCaffrey; and their families. She is predeceased by her parents and siblings Marilyn Rabetoy (twin), Beverly Forgione, Marie McCaffrey and Henry Lalonde.

Donations in her memory may be made to the Grey Nuns of the Sacred Heart, 14500 Bustleton Ave, Philadelphia, PA 19116-1188 or at [www.greynun.org](http://www.greynun.org)

Funeral arrangements are through Beck-Givnish Funeral Home, Levittown, Pennsylvania.

## Mary D. Demo, mother of Father Demo, died Feb. 22

A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated for Mary D. Demo at 2 p.m. on May 10, 2024 at St. Patrick's Catholic Church, Brasher Falls, with her son, Rev. John "Mickey" Demo, celebrating and priests of the Diocese of Ogdensburg, concelebrating.

Burial will follow in St. Patrick's Cemetery, Brasher Falls.

Mary, 86, a longtime resident of Brasher Falls, peacefully passed away Thursday morning, February 22, 2024, at her home with the love of her husband and daughters at her side.

Mary was born on July 11, 1937, in Massena, the daughter of the late Orville and Ellen (Campbell) Donahue. She attended a one-room schoolhouse in the Bombay rural school district before graduating from Bombay High School. She continued her education at Central City Business Institute, where she received her two-year degree in Legal Secretarial Studies.

On October 4, 1958, she married John M. Demo at St. Patrick's Catholic Church in Hogsburg with Rev. Joseph Stickelmeyer, officiating.

Following her graduation, she started working at Alcoa until being laid off. She then went to Reynold's Metals, where she was the private secretary to the personnel manager. She worked there for a year and a half until she and her husband started their family, which blessed them with five children.

A devout Catholic, Mary had a devotion to Our Blessed Mother, Mary, and dedicated many years to sharing the Catholic faith with the children of St. Patrick's Parish in Brasher Falls as a religious education teacher. She also taught religious education to children and adults with special needs and was actively involved in the RCIA program for those working to obtain delayed sacraments.

A faithful communicant of St. Patrick's Church, she served as lector and eucharistic minister and coordinated the prayer line for many years. Additionally, she volunteered her time and talent at St. Lawrence Central School assisting students with reading disabilities.

She followed her children's sporting events, enjoyed puzzles, gar-



Mary D. Demo

dening, and flowers. She and her husband greatly enjoyed traveling, having visited all of the Continental United States, all the provinces of Canada, and made many pilgrimages to area shrines.

Mary is survived by her loving husband of 65 plus years, John "Corky"; her children and their spouses, Mary Ann and Dr. Rashid Khan of Syracuse, Father John "Mickey" Demo of Watertown, Mark and Linda Demo of Cazenovia, Gregory and Tera Demo of Colorado, and Therese Demo of Massena; her beloved grandchildren, Yasin, Novall, Samina, Amara, Jordan, Brian, Graham, Nikolas, Sydney, Makenzie, Connor, Bailey, and Mackenzie; six great-grandchildren; her sisters, Sister Ellen Donahue, SA of Garrison and Patricia Lantry of Syracuse; her brother, Jeremiah Donahue of Hyde Park, Massachusetts; and many nieces and nephews.

In addition to her parents, she was predeceased by two sisters, Aileen Hastings and Ellen Carmichael.

Memorial contributions may be made in her memory to the Gabriel Project of St. Patrick's Church, PO Box 208, Brasher Falls, NY 13613.

Arrangements are under the care and guidance of the Donaldson Funeral Home, Massena, where friends may share memories and offer condolences to her family online at [www.donaldsonfh.com](http://www.donaldsonfh.com).

**Environmental Stewardship****A fulfilled life – harmony**

God fashioned components of nature to operate in harmony. While watching a fox stalking a mouse, pouncing on it and devouring the rodent, it may not seem like a harmonious relationship, but ecologists are quick to point out that the relationship between a predator and its prey is a delicate and beautiful balancing act that allows both types of wild-life to flourish.

We learn from nature that everything is interconnected, and interrupting, harming or destroying any part of the natural “flow” or any component of an area results in harm being spread not only across that particular area but to other nearby settings as well.

We have been created and placed on earth by the same God who formed the elements of nature, and we are expected to live in harmony with all things, especially other humans. All too often, we deviate from this calling by being “at war” with someone or something around us. The seeds of hatred can germinate quickly in our hearts against a neighbor, co-worker, family member or friend you feel has wronged you. And just as in nature, once one element of the system becomes out of sync with others, the negative affects ripple throughout the system and perpetuates harm.

When listening to the news, it can be quite unsettling to hear about wars in the world. However, we must remember we indirectly contribute to conflicts with our own anger, hatred and bigotry. This Lent, we must try to address any such negative issues to lower the level of ill will we radiate.

Conflict, pain and suffering are all present among organisms that populate any environment, but these issues are innate responses to circumstances. They follow natural, life-enhancing actions designed to benefit all the residents of the area. Living in harmony does not come easy, but the rewards yield both beauty and joy.

By Tom Kalinowski

**Protecting God's Children**

**The Diocese of Ogdensburg** has scheduled sessions for Protecting God's Children for Adults. Pre-registration is required. Preregister at [www.virtus.org](http://www.virtus.org). Upcoming sessions: **March 7** – 6 p.m. – Immaculate Heart School in Watertown **March 10** – 5:30 p.m. – St. Mary's School in Canton

**Rest in Peace**

*This week marks the anniversary of the deaths of the following clergymen who have served in the Diocese of Ogdensburg*

**March 6** – Rev. Louis F. Lussier, 1915; Rev. John G. Craven, 1921

**March 7** – Rev. Alexander K. Klauder, 1934; Rev. Cornelius O'Mahoney, M.S.C., 1940

**March 8** – Rev. William B. Nyhan, 1914; Rev. William J. Reilly, O.S.A., 1925

**March 10** – Rev. Hector Mauriot, O.M.I., 1895

**March 11** – Msgr. Edmund Charles M. J. DePauw, 1911

**March 12** – Rev. Joseph L. Stickelmyer, 1984

**To Report Abuse**

**If you have a complaint** of suspected misconduct involving diocesan clergy, religious, employees or volunteers, contact Victims Assistance Coordinator, Terrienne Yanulavich, Ph.D., LMHC, 5050 Route 374, Merrill, NY 12955; [terrianneyanulavich@yahoo.com](mailto:terrianneyanulavich@yahoo.com) Phone: 518-358-3145, Ext. 7179 days; 518-569-0612 evenings; or Father Christopher Carrara, the Episcopal Vicar for Clergy; [ccarrara@rcdony.org](mailto:ccarrara@rcdony.org) Phone: 315-393-2920 ext. 1340.

**If you have a complaint** of suspected sexual abuse or related misconduct by the bishops, contact the **Catholic Bishop Abuse Reporting Service** at 800-276-1562 or [www.ReportBishopAbuse.org](http://www.ReportBishopAbuse.org)

**OPPORTUNITIES FOR ADORATION**

*The following is a list of opportunities to spend time with Jesus in Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. To add an Adoration opportunity to this list, email [dfargo@rcdony.org](mailto:dfargo@rcdony.org).*

**Holy Angels Church, Altona**  
After 8 a.m. Mass, dedicated to Vocations and the church

**St. Patrick's Church, Brasher Falls**  
Wednesday & Friday 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

**St. Mary's Church, Canton**  
Tuesday 4:10 p.m. to 5:10

**St. Vincent of Paul, Cape Vincent**  
First Friday of the month

**St. James Church, Carthage**  
Wednesday, 3 p.m. to 6, Thursday, 10 a.m. to 11, First Friday, 10:15 a.m. to 7 a.m. Saturday morning

**St. Patrick's Church, Chateaugay**  
Wednesday 5 p.m. to 6, First Friday 8:30 a.m., Communion Service followed by Adoration for Vocations

**All Saints Church, Chaumont**  
First Thursday of the month 3 p.m.

**Sacred Heart Church, Chazy**  
At various times as needed, please contact parish 518-846-7650 for more information

**St. Mary's Church, Clayton**  
First Fridays after 9 a.m. Mass

**Bishop's Public Schedule**

**March 6-8** – Seminarian Visit at the Pontifical College Josephinum in Columbus, Ohio

**March 9** – 9:30 a.m. – Creating a Culture of Vocations in the Parish Conference at the Father Andrew Amyot Parish Center in Norfolk

**March 11** – Noon – Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

**March 12** – Noon – Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

**March 13-14** – Seminarian Visit at Saint Vincent Seminary in Latrobe, Pennsylvania  
Thursday, March 14

**St. Stephen's Church, Croghan** 6 p.m.  
First Friday, 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 including prayer for Vocations

**St. Joseph's Church, Dannemora**  
Wednesday & Friday 11 a.m. before noon Mass

**St. Elizabeth's Church, Elizabethtown**  
Winter 11 a.m. to 12 p.m.

**St. Edmund's Church, Ellenburg**  
Monday after 5:30 p.m. Mass

**St. Mary's of the Fort, Fort Covington**  
Tuesday 5 p.m. to 6, Sat. 9 a.m. to 10 a.m. except when it's a First Saturday

**St. Hedwig's Church, Houseville**  
First Sunday following 11 a.m. Mass

**St. Agnes Church, Lake Placid**  
Tues 1 p.m. to 5:30, Vocations Emphasized

**St. Peter's Church, Lowville**  
First Friday of the month with intention to Vocations

**St. Bernard's Church, Lyon Mountain**  
First Friday of the month after 9 a.m. Mass

**St. Peter's Parish, Massena**  
Held at Sacred Heart Church 12:45 p.m. to 1:45

**St. Ann's Church, Mooers Forks**  
after 8 a.m. Mass, dedicated to Vocations and the church

**St. Augustine Church, North Bangor**  
Thursday 10 a.m. to 11

**St. Andrew's Church, Norwood**  
Friday after 8:30 a.m. Mass until noon

**St. Mary's Cathedral Parish, Ogdensburg**  
Entryway for the Deacon Winter Chapel Thursday before First Friday from 7 to 8 p.m., Wednesday 3 to

**St. John's Church, Plattsburgh**  
Holy Family Basement  
Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.

**St. Martin's Church, Port Leyden**  
Rectory Chapel  
Wednesday Mornings after Mass for 30 minutes

**St. Mary's Church, Potsdam**  
Tuesday 12:45 p.m. to 4:30, First Friday 8:30 a.m. to 9:30

**Church of the Assumption, Redford**  
Tuesday & Thursday 11 a.m. before noon Mass

**St. Ann's Church, St. Regis Falls**  
First Saturday, following 4:30 anticipated Mass

**St. Andrews Church, Sackets Harbor**  
Friday 4 p.m. to 5

**St. Alphonsus-Holy Name of Jesus Parish, Tupper Lake**  
Monday 7 p.m. to 8

**Holy Family Church, Watertown**  
Monday's following noon Mass

**Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Church, Watertown**  
1 hour prior to Mass, First Friday of the Month

**St. Anthony's Church, Watertown**  
First Sunday of the Month 2 p.m. to 3 p.m.

**St. Ann's Church, Wells**  
Half an hour after Sunday Mass every Third Sunday of the month.

**St. Philip Neri Church, Westport**  
Half Hour every other Friday (before Mass Winter/after Mass Summer)

**St. Philip of Jesus, Willsboro**  
Full Holy Hour on First Fridays (before Mass)



# Vatican calls for hostage returns in Israel-Hamas war

By Katie Quinones  
Catholic News Agency

The Vatican has reiterated its call for the safe return of the hostages taken by the terrorist group Hamas and for a cease-fire between Israel and Hamas in the ongoing war between the two.

Vatican Secretary of State Cardinal Pietro Parolin insisted on Tuesday that a "cease-fire" is the only way for the hostages to be returned to Israel.

"Our concern is, first of all, to find a way to have the hostages released and for humanitarian assistance, which continues to be very difficult," he said on the sidelines of an award ceremony of the Centesimus Annus Pro Pontifice Foundation on Tuesday. "So the only path is that of a cease-fire."

Parolin confirmed that there have been "no developments" in diplomatic contacts with Israel. Earlier this month, the Israeli embassy denounced Parolin for calling Israel's conduct in the war not "proportionate."

A Palestinian ambassador to the Holy See, Issa Kassissieh, meanwhile, met with a top Vatican official on Monday. Kassissieh urged for a cease-fire ahead of the upcoming religious holidays of Ramadan and Easter, as reported by Crux.

Kassissieh met with Vatican's secretary for Relations with States, British Archbishop Paul Gallagher, and emphasized the need for humanitarian aid in Gaza and to preserve access to holy sites in Jerusalem.

Kassissieh reportedly urged Israel to remember "they're living in the Middle East, among Arab and Muslim worlds, so extremism won't get any results for anyone." He also thanked the Vatican for its recent statements on the Israel-Hamas conflict and for the Holy See's "relentless" efforts for peace.

"We have taken note of what the ambassador has told us," Parolin told reporters at the Tuesday event.

"But even there, what we would like is that a dialogue could be initiated beyond the polemics that perhaps are also in a certain sense justified by the passion to which this war has given rise on both sides," he said. "Obviously on these things we need to reason a little more calmly."

President Joe Biden said earlier this week that he was hoping for a short-term cease-fire between Israel and Hamas. Israel said it would agree to it if Hamas released the hostages, but

multiple Hamas officials have since rejected the cease-fire proposal.

Earlier this month, Parolin said the Israeli response to the Oct. 7, 2023, attacks, when Hamas brutally killed 1,200 Israeli civilians and took more than 200 hostages, was not "proportionate."

The Israeli embassy issued a sharp rebuke in which the embassy called the cardinal's comment a "deplorable statement."

The cardinal reiterated that the Vatican had condemned "what happened on Oct. 7" as well as condemning "every type of antisemitism."

Parolin went on to say that "at the same time" the Holy See has requested "that Israel's right to defense that was invoked to justify this operation be proportionate ... and certainly with 30,000 deaths it is not."

"I believe we are all outraged by what is happening, by this carnage, but we must have the courage to move forward and not lose hope," Parolin said, adding that "we must find other ways to solve the problem of Gaza, the problem of Palestine."

"It is a deplorable statement," the Israeli embassy responded in a Feb. 14 statement. "Judging the legitimacy of a war without taking into account all relevant circumstances and data inevitably leads to erroneous conclusions."

"Gaza has been transformed by Hamas into the largest terrorist base ever seen," the embassy argued. "There is almost no civilian infrastructure that has not been used by Hamas for its criminal plans, including hospitals, schools, places of worship, and many others."

"Gaza civilians also actively participated in the Oct. 7 unprovoked invasion of Israeli territory, killing, raping, and taking civilians hostage," the statement continued. "All these acts are defined as war crimes."

The embassy argued that "in stark contrast" to the Hamas assault, "IDF operations are conducted in full compliance with international law."

The embassy's press release also addressed the issue of civilian deaths, indicating that in the case of the IDF, "for every Hamas militant killed, three civilians lost their lives," which contrasts favorably with "past wars and operations of NATO forces or Western forces in Syria, Iraq, or Afghanistan ... the proportion was nine or 10 civilians for every terrorist."

# CATHOLIC WORLD AT A GLANCE

## Putin warns of nuclear risk over Ukraine troop deployment

Russian President Vladimir Putin in a speech on Thursday cautioned that any Western military intervention in support of Ukraine could potentially lead to nuclear conflict. "[The West] must understand that we also have weapons that can hit targets on their territory," Putin, who is widely expected to hold onto power in an upcoming election, said in a Feb. 29 speech to Russia's Federal Assembly. Warning of "tragic consequences" if NATO forces were ever deployed to Ukraine, Putin continued, as reported by the Washington Post: "All this really threatens a conflict with the use of nuclear weapons and the destruction of civilization. Don't they get that? ... [Russia's] strategic nuclear forces are in a state of full readiness." Putin's speech came two days after French President Emmanuel Macron suggested that the deployment of foreign forces to Ukraine remained an option. "We will do everything needed so Russia cannot win the war," Macron said at a news conference. He said there is no consensus to "send in" troops on the ground, but said "nothing can be ruled out."

## Mafia in Italy suspected of poisoning priest's chalice

During evening Mass on Feb. 24, Father Felice Palamara, a parish priest in Cessaniti, in the Vibo Valentia province of Italy, was apparently targeted by the 'Ndrangheta, a criminal organization. Palamara, a priest of the Diocese of Tropea-Mileto-Nicotera, noticed a strange smell coming from the chalice: Bleach had been poured into the liturgical vessels, laboratory analysis later confirmed. Realizing what was happening, he was forced to interrupt the liturgy to report the incident to the local police. Days prior, the priest's car had been damaged by unidentified vandals. The diocese said in a statement posted on its website that "it is experiencing a time of suffering due to intimidating acts." Nostro went on to exhort his flock to "not be discouraged by this language of violence. We must not give in to this logic, allowing ourselves to be tempted by despair and anger. We cannot accept this language; we must not respond to hatred with hatred, knowing that it is not possible to truly dialogue with those who refuse to do so."

## More than a dozen killed in attack on Mass in Burkina Faso

At least 15 Catholics were killed in an attack during Mass on Sunday in the Burkina Faso village of Essakane in the country's Oudalan province in the northeastern region, a jurisdiction of the Diocese of Dori. In a statement, Father Jean-Pierre Sawadogo, the vicar general of the Dori Diocese, called the Feb. 25 incident a "terrorist attack" and appealed for prayers for the souls of those who he said "died in faith." He also called for spiritual solidarity with those in need of healing and consolation. "In this painful circumstance, we invite you to pray for those who died in faith, for the healing of the wounded, and for the consolation of grieving hearts," Sawadogo said. According to Sawadogo, 12 worshippers were killed at the scene of the attack while three succumbed to their injuries while receiving treatment. Two others were being treated at a hospital.

## VIRTUAL EVENTS

## PRIESTHOOD DISCERNMENT

Are you a single Catholic man who is hearing the Lord's call to the Priesthood? Consider joining others virtually who are listening and seeking to respond.

**Date:** Mar. 10, Mar. 24, Apr. 14

**Time:** 4 to 5 p.m.

**Place:** Online

**Features:** High school age men and older are invited to join fellow discerners and Father Howard Venette to discuss this vocation.

**Contact:** You must register in order to attend, please go to [www.rcdony.org/priesthooddiscernment](http://www.rcdony.org/priesthooddiscernment)

## ADIRONDACK MOUNTAIN

## LENTEN PROGRAM

Lake Pleasant – St. James Church to host Bishop Barron's 4-week presentation on the Eucharist.

**Date:** March 6, 13, 20 and April 3

**Time:** 5 p.m.

**Features:** The Seder meal will be celebrated on March 27. The four presentations will follow a simple shared Lenten meal of soup and bread. Please join fellow parishioners and friends to enjoy a time together developing a deeper understanding of love for the Eucharist.

## STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Stations of the Cross to be held during Lent.

**Schedule:** Half an hour before the 8 a.m. Mass at St. James, Lake Pleasant and the 10 a.m. Mass at St. Ann's, Wells.

## CLINTON NORTHERN FRANKLIN

## WOMEN'S LENTEN STUDY

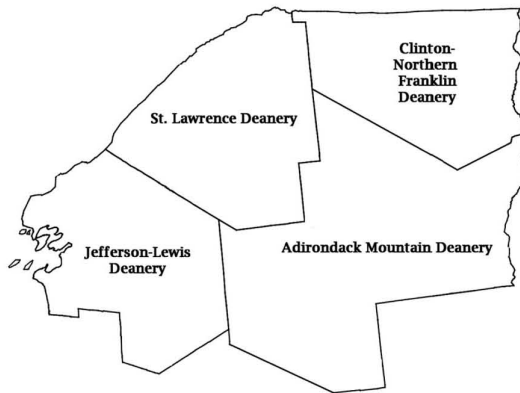
Plattsburgh – Walking with Purpose to have a Women's Lenten Study.

**Date:** Thursdays, Feb. 15 to May 30 (currently on hold until after Lent)

**Time:** 10 a.m. to 11:45 or 6:30 p.m. to 8:15

**Place:** St. John's Dwyer/McAvoy Parish Center

**Cost:** Suggested donation, \$20



The North Country Catholic welcomes contributions to "Around the Diocese".

Parishioners are invited to send information about activities to:

North Country Catholic, PO Box 326,  
Ogdensburg, NY 13669

e-mail [news@northcountrycatholic.org](mailto:news@northcountrycatholic.org).

Items must be received in the NCC office by the Wednesday before publication.

**Features:** Discover God's plan for friendship, how to navigate toxic relationships, let God reshape how you see and experience intentional relationships, and explore what it takes to have deep connections for the long haul.

**Contact:** Janice Tobin C/T 518-569-5370

## FAITH, FELLOWSHIP AND REFLECTION

Ellenburg – Join Us for "Faith, Fellowship, and Reflection.": Experience the Lenten journey like never before!

**Date:** Every Thursday during Lent

**Time:** 5 p.m. Mass, followed by soup and salad and then a video from the Symbolon Series

**Place:** St. Edmund's parish hall

**Features:** "Symbolon: The Catholic Faith Explained" offers a systematic presentation of our Catholic Faith, guiding you through its "big picture" with our Creed as the compass. Led by trusted Catholic teachers, this series delves into the breadth and richness of our faith. All are welcome to attend this transformative Lenten program.

## FISH FRY

Plattsburgh – Holy Cross Parish to have fish fries during Lent.

**Date:** Fridays through March 22

**Time:** 4:30 p.m. to 6:30

**Place:** Holy Cross Parish Center

**Cost:** \$14

**Menu:** Haddock, coleslaw, beverage, tartar and cocktail sauce, roll with butter, dessert and the following sides on these dates, Mac & cheese on Feb. 16, 23 and March 15; French Fries on March 1, 8 and 15

**Contact:** 518-563-0730 for more information.

## SEASON OF TRANSFORMATION

Plattsburgh – Holy Cross Parish presents, Season of Transformation.

**Schedule:** March 11 and 18 at 6:30 p.m. or Feb. 28, March 6, 13 and 20 at 10 a.m.

**Place:** St. Peter's Emmaus Room

**Cost:** Suggested donation is \$5 for the study guide

**Features:** To help us enter into this season, Amy Ekeh guides readers in exploring three key moments in the life and ministry of Jesus. The result will be a better understanding of the authentic transformation that God calls each of us to embrace as individuals and as a community and a renewed desire to live God's own outward-looking, self-emptying, laying-down-one's-life kind of

love.

**Contact:** Please register for the day or evening session to: [plattsburghsec@rcdony.org](mailto:plattsburghsec@rcdony.org) or call the Parish Office at 518-563-0730.

## LENTEN SERIES

Ellenburg – Join us for a series of Lenten Talks, Sharing and Prayer.

**Time:** 10:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.

**Place:** Adirondack House of Prayer

**Next session:** March 23, Discipleship in Three Stories in Mark: come and discover the process of discipleship illustrated by three stories in the Gospel of Mark followed by a simple lunch and a Holy Hour based on the discipleship of the Woman at the Well;

**Features:** These events are free and open to all. A donation to help cover lunch will be gratefully accepted.

**Contact:** For registration, contact Sarah at 518-534-9976 or Email: [olapraynerhouse@gmail.com](mailto:olapraynerhouse@gmail.com)

## COMPASSIONATE COMPANIONS VOLUNTEER TRAINING

Plattsburgh – Compassion Companions of Clinton County to have a volunteer training.

**Date:** April 19

**Time:** 8:45 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

**Place:** St. Joseph's Community Outreach Center

**Features:** Generous and kind people carrying out errands of mercy to help their neighbors age in place more successfully by providing their gifts of companionship and friendship, easing isolation and loneliness by establishing and strengthening meaningful social relationships between older adults and their family, friends and volunteers, encouraging and enabling participation in the life of their communities.

**Contact:** For more information contact Starr at 518-825-0697 or [Starr@stalexanders.org](mailto:Starr@stalexanders.org) urday Devotions for Reparation; To recite five decades of the Holy Rosary and meditate beyond the recitation for 15 minutes on one or all of the mysteries.

**Contact:** For more information, contact Sarah at 518-534-9976.

## JEFFERSON-LEWIS

## HOLY HOUR AND DIVINE MERCY

Houseville – A Holy Hour of Adoration with the Divine Mercy Chaplet will be observed the first Sunday of the month.

**Date:** March 3

**Time:** Following 11 a.m. Mass

**Place:** St. Hedwig's Church

**Contact:** 315-348-6260

## SPAGHETTI &amp; MEATBALL DINNER

Evans Mills – The Indian River Council 7471 Knights of Columbus will be having a spaghetti & meatball dinner.

**Date:** March 9

**Time:** 4 p.m. to 7

**Place:** St. Mary's Parish Center

**Cost:** Adults, \$9; Seniors, \$8; Children 12 and under, \$5; under 5, Free

**Contact:** For more information call 315-629-4678

## LENTEN RETREAT

Watertown – Lenten retreat to be held for Pastors and Secretaries, Catechetical Leaders and Catechists.

**Date:** March 10

**Time:** 2 p.m. to 4

**Place:** SSJ Motherhouse

**Features:** Join us for an afternoon of prayer as we reflect on the "Eucharist and the Call to Discipleship and Mission." There will also be Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, time for personal prayer, and an opportunity for the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

## LENTEN MISSION

Croghan – Lenten Mission to be held with the theme "Walking to Calvary: A Eucharistic Journey".

**Date:** March 10, 11, & 12

**Time:** 6:30 p.m.

**Place:** St. Stephen's Parish

**Schedule:** March 10, "Alone with the Alone": The Eucharist and Prayer; March 11, Jesus' falls: Meeting Him in my failure; March 12, Meeting Mary on the Way: Her Eucharistic Love

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# Around the diocese

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**Contact:** For More Information, Please Contact Stephen's Parish, 315-346-6958 (Fr. Donald Manfred) or (Tom Kalamas 315-523-5890)

## SPAGHETTI DINNER AND BASKET RAFFLE

Adams – St. Cecilia's to have a Spring Spaghetti Dinner and Basket Raffle.

**Date:** March 23

**Time:** 3 p.m. to 6

**Cost:** Adults, \$10; Seniors, \$8; Children 10 and under, \$5

**Features:** Each basket has a value of \$20 or more. Baskets can be viewed at St. Cecilia's Kehoe Center. Tickets are \$1 each or 6 for \$5. Sales the weekends of March 9 & 10 and 16 & 17. Drawings will be held at 6 p.m. on March 23. [www.stceciliaandqoh.org](http://www.stceciliaandqoh.org)

## ST. LAWRENCE

## TRUST TRUTH SERIES

Canton – Join Canton Catholics for a discussion on hot-button topics in the cold of our North Country winter!

**Time:** 6:30 p.m.

**Place:** Sylvia's Lounge (below Josie's Pizza).

**Next sessions:** March 12, I'M NOT DEAD YET, END OF LIFE ISSUES FOR THE LIVING, Speaker - Father Bryan Stitt, Pastor of St. Mary's in Canton; March 19, UNDER A SPELL, AN ENLIGHTENED AGE'S FASCINATION WITH THE DARK ARTS, Speaker - Elizabeth Pietropaoli, Educator and Student Advisor

**Features:** Cash preferred for drinks. We hope to see you there!

**Contact:** Free childcare will be offered in St. Mary's Parish Center. Please call ahead to reserve your child(ren)'s spot at 315-386-2543 or for more information.

## ROSARY WITH DEVOTIONS

Ogdensburg – The Legion of Mary will pray the rosary with devotions for First Saturday.

**Date:** March 2

**Time:** 8 a.m.

**Place:** Notre Dame Church,

Ogdensburg

**Features:** Rosary with devotions

## FIRST SATURDAY ROSARY

Massena – Sacred Heart Church to have first Saturday Rosary Devotion.

**Date:** March 2

**Time:** 3:15 p.m.

**Features:** First Saturday Rosary Devotion. Confessions available. Mass at 4 p.m.

## MEN'S PRAYER GROUP

Massena – First Saturday of the month, men's prayer group to meet for Mass and Adoration.

**Date:** March 2

**Time:** 9 a.m.

**Place:** Sacred Heart Church

## MONTHLY BRUNCH

Norfolk – Parish of the Visitation and St. Raymond's will have their monthly Knights of Columbus Brunch.

**Date:** March 10 (Second Sunday of each month)

**Time:** 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

**Place:** Father Amyot Parish Center

**Cost:** Adults, \$10; under 12, \$5; under 5, Free; Omelets, add \$3; Take-outs available

**Contact:** For more information contact Grand Knight Gil Gonthier 315-212-5166.

## DIOCESAN EVENTS

### LEAD EVENTS

The following is a list of LEAD (Leaders for Evangelization and Discipleship) events that will be held across the diocese.

**Schedule:** March 9, Norfolk, Father Andrew Amyot Parish Center 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m., "Creating a Culture of Vocations in the Parish", No Cost, [www.rcdony.org/CreatingCulture](http://www.rcdony.org/CreatingCulture)

March 23, Ogdensburg, Wadhams Hall, 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m., "What Are You Looking For? Day of Reflection", John 1:38, [www.rcdony.org/dayofreflection](http://www.rcdony.org/dayofreflection), \$25

April 7, Watertown, Hearthsides, SSJ Motherhouse, 1 p.m. to 3,

"Sacred Scripture the Big Picture", No Cost

April 10, Virtual, 6p.m. to 8, "Vocation of the Catechist", No Cost  
April 11, Plattsburgh Regional Office, 1 p.m. to 3, "Child Methodologies and Learning Styles Part 1", No Cost

April 14, Massena, St. Mary's Social Hall 1 p.m. to 3, "Catholic Social Teaching", No Cost

**Features:** We are all called to know our faith and to share it with others. LEAD offers quality diocesan and regional events to support the varied work of parish ministries. All involved in parish ministries are invited to attend. If there is a cost associated with the event, parishes may receive a bill.

**Contact:** To register go to: [www.rcdony.org/certworkshops](http://www.rcdony.org/certworkshops) unless otherwise noted.

## CREATING A CULTURE OF VOCATIONS

Norfolk – The Vocation Office in conjunction with LEAD will be presenting a conference "Creating A Culture of Vocations in the Parish".

**Date:** March 9

**Time:** 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.

**Place:** Fr. Andrew Amyot Parish Center

**Features:** The speaker for the conference is Leticia Ramirez, from Vocation Ministry, Houston, Texas. Ramirez will share her experiences supporting and promoting a culture of vocations in parishes and within families to the priests and parish representatives and to catechetical leaders and catechists.

**Contact:** To register: <https://www.rcdony.org/CreatingCulture>. Free book "The Harvest" to the first 30 registered.



## CHRISM MASS

Ogdensburg – All the faithful of the Diocese of Ogdensburg are invited to join Bishop LaValley in the annual Renewal of Priestly Commitment, the Blessing of the Holy Oils, and the consecration of the Sacred Chrism for use in all the churches of our diocese.

**Date:** March 21

**Time:** 11 a.m.

**Place:** St. Mary's Cathedral  
**Features:** This ritual symbolizes that we are one family in Christ. The Chrism Mass may be viewed at <https://www.rcdony.org/livemass>.

## LEAD ANNUAL DAY OF REFLECTION

Ogdensburg – Welcome Catechists, Catechetical Leaders, Commissioned Lay Ministers & Candidates and all Parish Ministers to the Lead Annual Day of Reflection.

**Date:** March 23

**Time:** 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.

**Place:** Wadhams Hall

**Cost:** \$25 per person

Theme: "What are you looking for?" John 1:38

**Features:** This event will be led by Bishop LaValley. Includes Mass, two talks, discussion, holy hour, benediction, and opportunity for confession.

**Contact:** Register at [www.rcdony.org/dayofreflection](http://www.rcdony.org/dayofreflection)

## HEALING MASS

Potsdam – Bishop LaValley has scheduled a Healing Mass for those hurt by the Church on Divine Mercy Sunday.

**Date:** April 7

**Time:** 2:30 p.m.

**Place:** St. Mary's Church, Potsdam

## RACHELS VINEYARD

Saranac Lake – A Rachel's Vineyard After-Abortion Healing Retreat to be held.

**Date:** May 24-26

**Place:** Guggenheim Lodge

**Features:** If you or a friend are suffering after abortion loss, you are not alone. Find hope and healing at the spring Rachel's Vineyard Retreat.

**Contact:** Register online: [www.rcdony.org/pro-life](http://www.rcdony.org/pro-life) or contact the Respect Life Office for more information: [cmner@rcdony.org](mailto:cmner@rcdony.org) or [www.rachelsvineyard.org](http://www.rachelsvineyard.org) for a list of locations.

## FOSTER GRANDPARENT

FGP is a local program that shows you how you can apply the skills and wisdom you have acquired throughout your life to make a difference in the lives of others. Get involved in the community and build relationships to last a lifetime. All you need is the ability to give comfort and love to help a child. You'll receive a small bi-weekly, non-taxable stipend that cannot be held against current benefits, and paid mileage. Additionally, you receive paid holidays, vacations, sick and personal leave. Opportunities available in Franklin, Essex, Clinton, St. Lawrence and Jefferson County.

**Contact:** Melissa Howard, Volunteer Coordinator at (518) 359-7688 or E-mail: [mhoward@cathcharities.org](mailto:mhoward@cathcharities.org)

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## CALLED TO SERVE Just in case

SCAP is an acronym for Sunday Celebrations In The Absence Of A Priest. An acronym is a word created by combining the first letter or syllable of each word in a title or phrase to create a new, single word.

I use acronyms all the time, but I dislike them. If I had stronger willpower, I would abandon them. Recently I was involved in a meeting with a bunch of folks from a common discipline but a discipline I was not as versed in. They were throwing around words and phrases that were foreign to me. I did ask them to slow down, and I asked them to help the poor outsider with at least an explanation of what the acronym stood for when they used it.

That is why I wrote the meaning of SCAP at the beginning of this column. Sunday Celebrations, the S, and the C in SCAP, mean Sunday Mass. I will use SCAP for the rest of this column, but do not be afraid to look back at the first sentence every so often to acquaint yourself with the meaning.

Here is how SCAP is supposed to work. Imagine you show up

for Mass on some winter Sunday and the deacon or a lay person announces that Father cannot make it because the road conditions between where you are and where he is are treacherous. There is no other priest available. They tried.

You are welcome to stay and spend some time with the Lord, but this Mass is cancelled. The congregation is encouraged to attend a different Mass in the community (if one is offered) or in a neighboring community (with the locations and times listed.)

"In circumstances in which there is no reasonable opportunity to provide for the celebration of Mass," it may be judged necessary to provide "other Sunday celebrations in the absence of a priest." The quotes are from the SCAP rite.

Priests have been meeting in the last couple of weeks to acquaint themselves with the nuances of the rite, how to prepare deacons and selected lay people if necessary to preside at a SCAP, and the circumstances that warrant calling the rite into play.

Deacons will have a refresher at the annual deacon assembly in May. "Since the Deacon has been ordained for the nurture and increase of the people of God, it belongs to him to lead the prayers, to proclaim the gospel, to preach the homily, and to give Holy Commu-

nion. When a Deacon is available, he leads the celebration."

Many readers are familiar with the service of the Word and Communion during the week that occurs when a priest is not available. SCAP is similar, but different enough that it requires some training.

Let's pray that we never have to break open the Rite for use, but it helps to be prepared.

*Deacon Kevin Mastellon ministers in Watertown. He is the Director of Permanent Deacons for the Diocese of Ogdensburg.*



Deacon  
Kevin Mastellon



After years of tension between Ukraine and the Russian Federation, Russian forces began a devastating war in February 2022 by invading Ukraine. In addition to killing and wounding many, the conflict has forced millions of Ukrainians to flee the country. Many refugees went to neighboring countries in Europe, but many others came to the United States. For decades, the Migration and Refugee Services (MRS) department of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) has assisted refugees fleeing wars and persecution, and in 2022 it responded to the Ukrainian refugee crisis with two initiatives to help local communities welcome refugees.

The first initiative, Welcome Circles, is a community-led program that helps local groups work together to provide financial support and connect refugees to services such as health care and education. Although Welcome Circles are locally led, they are certified, vetted, and given ongoing guidance by MRS staff or local affiliate experts. MRS's support and guidance help each Welcome Circle accompany refugees effectively during the resettlement process. As of early 2023, the Welcome Circles program already had 25 circles engaging more than 200 volunteers and had expanded to welcome refugees from Haiti, Cuba, Nicaragua, and Venezuela in addition to Ukraine.

Since 2010, MRS has led the second initiative, Parishes Organized to Welcome Immigrants and Refugees (POWIR), a program that works with select diocesan resettlement programs to empower parishes and local Catholic institutions so they can welcome and assist immigrants and refugees at the diocesan level. From May 2021 to January 2023, this diocesan support helped nearly 10,000 local volunteers, working in Catholic communities in 23 active POWIR

programs nationwide, to spend more than 100,000 volunteer hours working with and on behalf of about 24,000 clients.

Funds received through The Catholic Relief Services Collection allow MRS to help victims of war and oppression begin new lives in welcoming, supportive communities through innovative initiatives like Welcome Circles and POWIR. In addition to MRS, the collection supports other Catholic organizations that aid victims of persecution and natural disasters, provide legal services to poor immigrants, and advocate for the powerless.

**Your Donations Help Our Brothers and Sisters . . .**

**In the United States**

Feed Jesus' hunger in suffering refugees . . . through the **USCCB Department of Migration and Refugee Services (MRS)**.

Offer legal assistance to Jesus in struggling immigrants . . . through the **Catholic Legal Immigration Network, Inc. (CLINIC)**.

Reach out to comfort Jesus' loneliness in isolated workers . . . through the pastoral work of the **USCCB Secretariat of Cultural Diversity in the Church**.

**And Around the World**

Give water to quench Jesus' thirst in the people of Kenya and Zambia . . . through the humanitarian work of **Catholic Relief Services (CRS)**.

Advocate on behalf of Jesus in the poor and marginalized . . . through the public policy work of the **USCCB Department of Justice, Peace and Human Development**.

Send aid to Jesus in the victims of natural disaster . . . through the **Holy Father's Relief Fund**.



The Catholic Relief Services Collection

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**Special Collection to be held with Peter's Pence March 9 & 10**

**Combined Collection**

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## SUNDAY'S SCRIPTURE

## Remedies to the rebellious heart

This week's Gospel includes the words: "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him might not perish but might have eternal life."

That one simple sentence bubbles over with so many different realities: God, love, world, gave, Son, everyone, belief, perish, eternal life.

Let's focus on a few of them. Love. That word evokes different reactions in as many ways as there are different people. You remember Waylon Jennings' song: "Looking for love in all the wrong places, looking for love in too many faces."

Then, the great philosophical school known as Peanuts, the comic strip, has weighed in on the topic. One day, sitting at his typewriter, Snoopy writes: "Dear God, I just want to say I love you." Then, on another day, as Peppermint Patty pours out her soul to Snoopy and speaks about her horrible week and asks Snoopy: "What do you do when everything goes wrong?" Snoopy's response is a big kiss on

her cheek to which she responds, "That's good advice."

Look at the turmoil described in today's first reading captured in the expression "a rebellious world." Could we identify as a rebellious people? In many ways, rebellion still occurs. Look at the savage persecution of Christians happening in many parts of the world, look at the drug wars rampant in our cities as well as the drug battles fought in our own neighborhoods, look at the many broken families in our own communities. Then what about the political wars in our own country seemingly at every level possible. Yes, we do live in a great country; yes, we enjoy relative peace and freedom from harm. Perhaps, though, we choose to ignore the rebellion rather than admit its existence.

Rebellion existed back then, and rebellion exists now. Amid all of that, we read "God so loved the world that he gave his only Son." In response to that rebellion, God sends his Son to reignite the fire of compassion within our hearts so that we

March 10

Fourth Sunday of Lent

READINGS

2 Chronicles 36:14-16, 19-23

Ephesians 2:4-10

John 3:14-21

*This homily is offered  
courtesy of a priest of  
the Diocese of Ogdensburg.*

can find the energy to believe again, to re-embrace life, to cast out the demons of darkness. And even more than all this, the good news is: It's not about what we have to do to earn this. Instead, it's all about what God gratuitously does for us. He sends his Son.

The coming of Christ took place in time so many years ago. But, Jesus did not leave us orphans. Rather, he sent his Holy Spirit to dwell with us to this very day. That Holy Spirit comes to us through the Church. After all, Christ did tell us that he would build his Church, his people on the rock of Peter. Our Church continues that presence of Christ in our world to this very day. Jesus, the fullness of his message, his sacraments,

his love are the only effective remedies to the rebellious heart and ultimately a rebellious world.

The rejection of Jesus' message or the replacing of his message with humanly designed, but vastly weaker, alternatives have allowed rebellion to prosper. Rejection or disregard for the authentic message of Jesus will lead to failure.

One day in London, a well-known art expert was showing a visitor around an art gallery. This gallery contained masterpieces beyond all price, possessions of eternal beauty, and unquestioned genius. At the end of the tour, the visitor commented: "All of this art does nothing for me. I am not impressed." The art expert testily responded: "Sir, I would remind you that these works of art are no longer on trial. They have stood the test of time. The ones on trial are those who look at them, yourself included."

The visitor basically had shared his blindness and was not able to open his eyes to the beauty and truth presented to

him.

So, too, with the beauty and truth of Jesus' message and its continuity in today's Church. Like those works of art, Jesus' message and his Church have withstood the test of time. We are called to embrace that message, to see its beauty, to thirst for its unique truth.

God loved us; God continues to love us. Made in God's image, we too must love God in return and love one another. However, love is not the puppy love of Snoopy nor the love strummed out in so many songs. Rather, love means sacrifice, giving up what we may want in favor of what God wants. I read this passage one day: "You can sacrifice and not love. But you cannot love without sacrifice." God's love for us led to the sacrificial love of Christ for us. So, too, true love means sacrifice.

As we live the Lenten season, we pray that love, as lived and taught by Jesus and continued in the Church today, can replace not only the rebellion existing in our world, but also any rebellion that may exist in our hearts.

## OBITUARIES

**Brasher Falls** – Richard M. Arquette, 70; Mass of Christian Burial Feb. 27, 2024 at St. Patrick's Church.

**Brushton** – Heath Patterson, 56; Mass of Christian Burial March 1, 2024 at St. Mary's Church.

**Cadyville** – Evelyn Marie (Lagoy) Kerr, 81; Services to be held at a later date.

**Cape Vincent** – Wayne Francis Radley, 75; Mass of Christian Burial April 20, 2024 at St. Vincent's Church.

**Crown Point** – Stella M. (Pliscofsky) Mildon, 85; Mass of Chris-

tian Burial March 1, 2024 at Sacred Heart Church.

**Evans Mills** – Phyllis (Blondin) Dobson, 93; Graveside services March 2, 2024 at Glenwood Cemetery, Watertown.

**Lake Placid** – Richard Worth Shampeny, 74; Memorial Services March 9, 2024 at St. Agnes Church.

**Lisbon** – Euclid J. "Uke" Cadrette Jr., 89; Mass of Christian Burial March 4, 2024 at Ss. Philip and James Church; burial in St. Mary's Cemetery, Canton.

**Massena** – Joseph Carbone, 92;

Mass of Christian Burial Feb. 28, 2024 at St. Mary's Church; burial in Calvary Cemetery.

**Massena** – Dolores M. Lancto, 84; Mass of Christian Burial March 4, 2024 at Church of the Sacred Heart; burial in Visitation Cemetery, Norfolk.

**Morrisonville** – Elizabeth Lynn (Turner) Barber, 87; Mass of Christian Burial Feb. 28, 2024 at St. Alexander's Church.

**Morrisonville** – Carlton "Carl" Blow, 94; Memorial Services Feb. 29, 2024 at St. Alexander's Church.

**Peru** – Rita M. Kemp-Carter, 85; Mass of Christian Burial March 2, 2024 at St. Augustine's Church; burial in parish cemetery.

**Plattsburgh** – Elaine D. (LaPoint) LaTour, 78; Mass of Christian Burial March 1, 2024 at St. Peter's Church; burial in St. Peter's Cemetery.

**Rouses Point** – Walter W. Favro, 75; Mass of Christian Burial Feb. 27, 2024 at St. Patrick's Church; burial in Sacred Heart Cemetery, Chazy.

**Saranac Lake** – Brandon J. Dupree, 35; Funeral Services March 1, 2024 at Fortune-Keough Funeral Home.

**Saranac Lake** – Agnes E. "Liz" Latour, 75; Mass of Christian Burial March 2, 2024 at St. Bernard's Church

**Ticonderoga** – Joan (Sharrow) Miller, 88; Mass of Christian Burial Feb. 28, 2024 at St. Mary's Church; burial in Valley View Cemetery.

**Watertown** – Arthur F. "Sonny" Abrams, 75; Mass of Christian Burial March 2, 2024 at Holy Family Church.

**West Chazy** – Clayetta Claire (Ryan) Gonyo, 77; Mass of Christian Burial March 2, 2024 at St. Joseph's Church; burial in Plattsburgh

# Diocesan priest returns to Mollendo

*Father Francis Flynn served in our diocese's former mission parish, San Martin de Porras, in Mollendo, Peru from 1973-1981. The following two weeks will feature a reflection on his recent trip to visit the parish and its people.*

I left Peru and returned to the states in 1981. Every other year, I would try to go back for



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a visit. My last visit was February-March 2020. I left Peru on March 15, 2020, and that night the president shut the

country down because COVID had just arrived in Lima. This past January, I went back after a four-year absence.

Mollendo has grown immensely since I first arrived there in 1973. At that time, they estimated the population at 20,000. Today they estimate it at over 80,000. Most of the growth has taken place within the boundaries of our former parish, San Martin de Porras.

As it happened, while I was there, I got a call to go to anoint a woman who had been there with our first priests at the founding of the parish in 1962. Her name is Haydee de Salas. She was one of the first if not the first catechist who Father Paul Hagan trained in 1962. She and her husband had nine children. The two youngest were born in the years I was there. Haydee has been bedridden for several years

now, and every time I've been back to Mollendo for a visit, I would make sure to stop by and see her.

As it was, I was the only priest in Mollendo that week. The two Peruvian pastors were on retreat. I went to the hospital to anoint Haydee. It was the very same hospital that I visited every day when I was in Mollendo. That is where I really learned to speak Spanish. The patients had all the time and patience in the world to correct my mistakes. I had not been inside the hospital in over 40 years. They were experiencing an upsurge in covid cases, so I masked up and was led to Haydee's room. I anointed her and spent some time alone with her. Later that day she died.



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Turkey and Syria are situated in a region that experiences frequent, major earthquakes. In early February 2023, central Turkey's most powerful earthquake since 1939 struck with a magnitude of 7.8. More than 10,000 aftershocks continued for weeks afterward, including a powerful magnitude 6.4 aftershock that struck the biblical city of Antioch, known as Antakya. More than 50,000 people in Turkey and neighboring Syria were killed by the initial earthquake, followed by more deaths and the destruction of structures damaged by the first earthquake. UN officials estimated that more than 1.5 million people were left homeless in what is believed to be the largest natural disaster in Turkey's history.

In a mid-February meeting with Turkey's new ambassador to the Holy See, Pope Francis asked what sort of aid Turkey most needed. Within 24 hours, Cardinal Konrad Krajewski, the papal almoner and prefect of the Vatican's Dicastery for the Service of Charity, organized a shipment of canned food, diapers, thermal garments, and other necessities, to be sent from Rome to a warehouse in Turkey for distribution to those in need. At the same time, economic aid to Syrian victims was entrusted to the apostolic nunciature in Syria. In addition to this material relief, the Vatican's prefect for the Dicastery for the Eastern Churches, Archbishop Claudio Gugerotti, visited Syria and Turkey to provide a ministry of presence to victims.

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For more information on Peter's Pence, please visit the Vatican's Peter's Pence website: [www.obolodisampietro.va/en/cos-e-l-obolo.html](http://www.obolodisampietro.va/en/cos-e-l-obolo.html) (English) or [www.obolodisampietro.va/es/cos-e-l-obolo.html](http://www.obolodisampietro.va/es/cos-e-l-obolo.html) (español).

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**A view of Mollendo from a new highway.**

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